

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: MAJOR KRASNAYA ZVEZDA COMMENTARY ON DETENTE AND ITS
WESTERN ENEMIES

1. SUMMARY. JAN 14 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CARRIES UNUSUALLY BROAD-
GAUGE COMMENTARY ON DETENTE AND ITS WESTERN ENEMIES BY V. KORTUNOV,
WHO MAY BE PODGORNYY AIDE/ PIECE STAYS CLOSE TO CURRENT
LINE ON DETENTE AS DOMINANT TREND OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ON
CONTINUATION OF IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLES, BUT IS TOUGH ON WESTERN
CRITICISM OF SOVIETS AND THEIR VIEW OF DETENTE. IT IMPLICITLY
ACCEPTS INTERDEPENDENCE, WHILE REJECTING WESTERN CHARGE THAT USSR
NEEDS DETENTE BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC WEAKNESS. CONCLUDING PORTION ON
CAPITALIST CRISIS PAINS CRISIS AS SERIOUS BUT NOT NECESSARILY
FATAL, MAINLY BECAUSE SOVIET POWER HAS GROWN SINCE 1930'S. END
SUMMARY.

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2. COMMENTARY ENTITLED "DETENTE AND THE 'COLD WAR' RECIDIVISTS" BY V. KORTUNOV IN JAN 14 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA IS LITERATE, BROAD-GUAGE TREATMENT OF A NUMBER OF MAJOR ISSUES.

3. KORTUNOV BEGINS WITH FIRM STATEMENT THAT RELAXATION OF TENSION HAS BECOME "DOMINANT TREND" IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN FIVE YEARS SINCE CPSU 24TH CONGRESS ADOPTED "PEACE PROGRAM." SEVERAL PARAS ON HOW IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE CONTINUES TO BE "OBJECTIVE PHENOMENON" IN DETENTE CONDITIONS (WITH APPROPRIATE QUOTE FROM BREZHNEV) THEN LEAD INTO DIATRIBE AGAINST VARIOUS FORMS OF WESTERN PROPAGANDA WHICH ALLEGEDLY HAVE "NOTHING TO DO" WITH "SUCH" STRUGGLE, BUT ARE SIMPLY SUBVERSIVE.

4. LIST INCLUDES THEORY THAT DETENTE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY WESTERN STRENGTH AND MAINTAINED BY BARGAINING FROM POSITION OF STRENGTH; VARIOUS VERSIONS OF "MULTIPOLAR POWER" CONCEPT--PENTAGONALISM, TRILATERALISM AND THE LIKE--"WHOSE EDGE IS DIRECTED AGAINST THE USSR, OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES;" CONCEPTS OF INTERDEPENDENCE WHICH TEND TO SEE THIRD WORLD AS NATURAL PART OF WORLD CAPITALIST SYSTEM ONLY; AND IDEA THAT SOVIET UNION IS IMPELLED INTO DETENTE BY ECONOMIC WEAKNESS AND CAN BE MADE TO PAY FOR BENEFITS BY RENOUNCING SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES IN INTERNAL SYSTEMS THROUGH ACCEPTANCE OF "BOURGEOIS MODELS OF 'EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND PEOPLE,' 'RIGHTS OF MAN,' AND 'POLITICAL PLURALISMS.'" ALONG THE WAY HE CITES THE POINT BREZHNEV MADE ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION AT THE POLISH PARTY CONGRESS IN DECEMBER: PUTTING THE FINAL ACT INTO EFFECT REQUIRES "FIRST OF ALL CREATION OF APPROPRIATE MORAL-POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE."

5. MAJOR FINAL SECTION INTERPRETS THESE WESTERN SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS AS NATURAL DEFENSIVE REACTION TO STRAINS CAUSED BY CRISIS OF CAPITALISM. KORTUNOV RECALLS THAT FIRST WORLD WAR STARTED AGAINST BACKGROUND OF CYCLICAL CRISES WHICH BEGAN IN 1913 AND THAT CRISES OF 1929-1933 AND 1937-1938 "LEAD UP TO" WORLD WAR. HE ALSO NOTES THAT PRESENT CRISIS IS ACTIVATING "RIGHTIST FORCES", WHO PRESS FOR END OF DETENTE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE AND RETURN TO COLD WAR, AND SEEK TO SHIFT COSTS OF CRISIS ONTO WORKING CLASSES.

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6. HOWEVER, KORTUNOV CONCLUDES, SITUATION IS NOW VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE 1930, IN TWO WAYS: "UNSWERVINGLY GROWING POWER OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SOLE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY," AND "FURTHER GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' AND COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, OF THE PEOPLES' NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE." ALL THESE FORCES FIGHT FOR FURTHER NORMALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FRUITFUL MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION OF ALL COUNTRIES.

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7. COMMENT. OUR FILES CARRY A VADIM VASIL'YEVICH KORTUNOV AS AN AIDE TO PODGORNYY IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM TO POMPIDOU'S FUNERAL IN APRIL 1974, AND WHO PUBLISHED A BOOK ON "IDEOLOGY AND POLITICS" THE SAME YEAR. (WE WOULD APPRECIATE INR RESEARCH ON IDENTITY, SINCE IF V. KORTUNOV IS THE SAME MAN, THIS ARTICLE OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERED A PODGORNYY STATEMENT.)

8. KORTUNOV HEWS CLOSELY TO CURENT LINE ON DETENTE AND CONTINUATION OF IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE, BUT IS UNCOMMONLY FIRM AGAINST WESTERN ENEMIES OF DETENTE AS SOVIETS WANT IT TO BE. AT SAME TIME, HE REFRAINS FROM FINAL JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER WESTERN ENEMIES ARE LIKELY TO WIN. HIS MOST INTRIGUING POINTS CONCERN INTERDEPENDENCE AND CAPITALIST CRISIS. ARTICLE REJECTS THE CLAIM THAT SOVIETS NEED DETENTE BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC WEAKNESS, BUT DOES SO IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF INTERDEPNDECE, EXISTENCE OF WHICH IS IMPLICITLY ACCEPTED. ON CAPITALIST CRISIS, IT DRAWS PARALLEL WITH 1930'S ONLY TO REJECT IT, THOUGH MANLY ON GROUNDS OF SOVIET POWER RATHER THAN INTERNAL WESTERN RESISTANCE TO APPEAL OF "RIGHTIST" SOLUTIONS. IMPLICATION--THAT CRISIS IS SERIOUS BUT NOT NECESSARILY FATAL-- IS IN LINE WITH THRUST OF MOST RECENT SOVIET COMMENTARY BUT LESS OPTIMISTIC THAT WEST CAN WEATHER CRISIS WITHOUT MAJOR TURN TO THE "RIGHT".
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